6   receiving at the reconciling node via the network a second report that originated

7   from a content managing node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

8   comparing at the reconciling node the value and the transaction identifier; and

9   transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a

10   credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier.

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1   12. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a

2   reconciling node, the method comprising:

3   receiving at the reconciling node via a network a plurality of first reports, each

4   first report being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work

5   from a content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a

6   respective transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

7   receiving at the reconciling node via the network a plurality of second reports,

8   each second report originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a

9   respective value, a respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

10   identifying at the reconciling node a particular first report and a particular second

11 report, wherein the particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

12   comparing at the reconciling node the respective transaction identifier of the

13 particular first report and the respective value of the particular second report; and

14   transmitting at the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling payment

15 in accordance with the comparison.

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1   17. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a first

2 computer system, the method comprising:

3   receiving at the first computer system via a network a first report, the first report

4 being provided in response to a transaction that transferred via the network the digital work from

5 a second computer system to a third computer system, the first report comprising a transaction

6 identifier;

7   receiving at the first computer system via the network a second report that

8 originated from a fourth computer system, the second report comprising a value and a payee

9 identifier;

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10   comparing at the first computer system the value and the transaction identifier;

11   and

        transmitting from the first computer system onto the network a message enabling

13   a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier.

Please add the following new claims:

1   18. A memory device comprising indicia of the method of claim 9.

1   19. A memory device comprising indicia of the method of claim 12.

1   20. A memory device comprising indicia of the method of claim 17.

1   21. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a

2   reconciling node, the method comprising:

3   receiving at the reconciling node via a network a first report, the first report being

4   provided in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing

5   node to a content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier;

6   receiving at the reconciling node via the network a second report that originated

7   from a content managing node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

8   comparing at the reconciling node the value and the transaction identifier; and

9   transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a

10   credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier; wherein:

11   the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in

12   accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report

13   originating from the content requesting node; and

14   receiving the first report comprises receiving via the network a plurality of

15   records and determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

1   22. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a

2   reconciling node, the method comprising:

3   receiving via a network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided

4   in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing

5   node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier

6   and a respective first tracking value;

7   receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report

8   originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a

9   respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

10   identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the

11   particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

12   comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the

13   respective value of the particular second report;

14   transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the

15   comparison;

16   receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising

17   indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

18   detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid

19   transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely

20   received; wherein:

21   the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

22   each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective

23   event reporting node; and

24   the method further comprises transmitting a second message via the network from

25   which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence

26   detection.

1   23. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a

2   reconciling node, the method comprising:

3   receiving via a network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided in

4   response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node

5   to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier and a

6   respective first tracking value;

7   receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report

8   originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a

9   respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

10   identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the

11   particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

12   comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the

13   respective value of the particular second report;

14   transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the

15   comparison:

16   receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising

17   indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

18   detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid

19   transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not

20   originated in a predetermined sequence, wherein:

21   the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

22   each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective

23   event reporting node; and

24   the method further comprises transmitting a second message via the network from

25   which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence

26   detection.

1   24. The method of claim 17 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the

2   difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting

3   node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

1   25. The method of claim 17 wherein receiving the first report comprises:

2   receiving via the network a plurality of records; and

3   determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.